

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information retrieval system on internet, the information retrieval system including a web server and a client which is connected to the web server via the internet, in which the web server and the client have a two-way communication with each other,

the web server comprising:

10 figure data storage means for storing figure data on a whole including an object of retrieval and for transmitting the figure data to the client in response to an instruction from the client;

15 parts information storage means for storing parts information upon objects constituting the whole in which each of the objects is the object of retrieval and in which the parts information is written in mark-up language that is able to define an optional tag, and for transmitting the parts information to the client in response to an instruction from the client;

20 figure information storage means for storing figure information including coordinate data with respect to the figure data in which the figure information is written in mark-up language that is able to define an optional tag, and for transmitting the figure information to the client in response to an instruction from the client; and

information link means for linking the parts information and the figure information to each other bidirectionally, and

the client comprising:

5 a general-purpose web browser for showing the parts information and the figure data simultaneously, in which the parts information and the figure data are linked to each other bidirectionally.

2. 10 The information retrieval system on internet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mark-up language is Extensible Mark-up Language.

3. The information retrieval system on internet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the figure data are image data which do not have attribute of coordinates.

15 4. The information retrieval system on internet as claimed in claim 1, wherein when a retriever selects one of the objects of retrieval which are shown on the general-purpose web browser, the one changes visually on the general-purpose web browser.

20 5. The information retrieval system on internet as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises external output means for allowing a retriever to take out a result of the retrieval and to make use of the result.